(c) in what manner Government propose to use Palladium for Atomic Energy programme in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Palladium is not a substitute for Uranium in the Atomic Energy Programme. However, in the recently reported "Cold Fusion" experiments, Palladium electrodes have been used in the electrolytic cells.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) While there is no programme for using Palladium in our Nuclear Power Programme, studies on cold fusion phenomenon are being carried out in the laboratories of the Department of Atomic Energy. Other materials like Titanium have also been used for producing cold fusion.

**Charging of compulsory computer fee in public schools in Delhi**

1810. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced computer education at school stage;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the public schools in Delhi have introduced computer education at the primary school stage and are charging compulsory high fees from the students ignorant of use of computer;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) what steps Government propose to take to check the arbitrary burden loaded on the small children by the public schools; and

(f) in what manner, Government propose to check the extortion of money by public schools in the name of computer education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (f) A Pilot Project for Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) was initiated in 1984-85 in 248 selected Secondary/Higher Secondary Schools jointly by the Department of Electronics and the Department of Education with the following objectives:

— to provide students a broad understanding of computers and their use;

— to provide hands-on experience;

— to familiarise the students-with the range of computer applications in all walks of human activities and computers' potential as a controlling and information processing tool;

— to demystify computers and in develop a degree of case and familarity with computers which would be conducive to developing individual creativity in identifying applications relevant to their immediate environment.

The Project was further extended on year-to-year basis till 1988-89, covering 2079 more schools. So far 73 schools have been selected dnder the Project in Delhi. Besides 3 resource centres, which provide resource support to the participating schools, have also been selected in Delhi. Under the project computer hardware, software, guide-materials and necessary training are provided to the selected schools, free of cost.

As regards introduction of Computer Education and charging of high fees in public schools, Delhi Administration has informed that 28 such schools are charging fees of Rs. 10—70/- per month/

Rs. 200—480/- per year. Delhi Administration does not have powers at present to check charging of such fees by private schools. However, Delhi Administration can ensure that funds collected in shape of fees and other charges by unaided recognised schools are utilized for the purpose for which they are collected.

**Raising the age limit for Indian Forest Service Examination**

1811. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the age limit for Indian Forest Service Examination had been reduced from 28 years to 26 years in the past;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to raise the upper age limit for I.F.S. from 26 to 28 years in consonance with Government's decision in the case of Civil Services Examination, 1990; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The upper age limit for the IFS has since been raised. For the 1990 examination, the upper age limit is 31 years for the general candidates. It would be 28 years from 1991 onwards.

**Allocation for Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary**

1812. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 860 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th March, 1990 and the steps Government have taken to increase the allocation during 1990-91 for Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MATI MENEKA GANDHI): Proposals for assistance for the Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary for 1990-91 are not received from the State Government of Orissa.

**Indigenisation in the area of film technology/equipments**

1813.SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans of the Department for indigenisation in the Area of Film Technology/Equipments, where crores of rupees are spent on import of Equipments and spares; and

(b) whether the proposals presented by C-DIT, Arivandrum for project for nidigenisation in the area of film technology/equipment has been considered by Government, if so, the response thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) Department of Electronics has sanctioned grants-in-aid to the Centre for Development of Imagine Technology (C-DIT), Trivandrum under its Technology Development Council (TDC) programme to support the indigenous efforts from the angle of development of hardware and software in the area of film technology. Out of the sanctioned amount of Rs. 77 lakhs as one time support, Rs. 40 lakhs has already been released.

**Finalisation of electronic policy for Eighth Five Year Plan**

1814. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electronic Policy for the Eighth Five Year Plan has been finalised?

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to take up Research and Development